

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) **Mail Stop AMENDMENT**
Keiji Kameishi)
Application No.: 10/585,143) Group Art Unit: 3743
Filed: June 30, 2006) Examiner: Stephen M. Gravini
For: HAND DRYING APPARATUS) Confirmation No.: 9916
)

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the June 9, 2009 personal interview. The substance of the discussion is incorporated into the Remarks below.

Applicant's independent claim 11 is directed to a hand drying apparatus comprising, in combination with other claimed features, a hand insertion chamber having a hollow portion and an opening for inserting a hand in the hollow portion. The hollow portion is defined by a first inner surface and a second inner surface. A first air opening is arranged on the first inner surface and is configured to blow a first air jet towards the second inner surface. A second air opening is arranged on the second inner surface and is configured to blow a second air jet towards the first inner surface. The first air opening is arranged at an interior side of the hollow portion with respect to the second air opening such that the axes of the first air jet and the second air jet do not collide. A portion of the first inner surface between the opening of the hollow portion and the first air opening that receives the second air jet from the second air opening is inclined toward the interior of the hollow portion in order to flow

the second air jet from the opening to the interior side of the hollow portion and distance the first air jet from the second air jet.

Such features encompass Applicant's exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 1 wherein hand drying apparatus 1 includes a hand insertion chamber 2 having a first inner surface 4 and a second inner surface 6. First air opening 15 blows a first air jet "a" towards the second inner surface 6. Second air opening 16 blows a second air jet "c" toward the first inner surface 4. The first inner surface 4 includes a sloping surface 17. The second air jet "c" from the second nozzles 16 collides with the sloping surface 17 and flows backward along the contour of the sloping surface 17 and hits and pushes the first air jet "a" from the first nozzle 15 downward and away from the second air jet "c." Because of the streamlined concave curvature of the sloping surface 17, no noise is produced when the second air jet "c" collides with the sloping surface 17. See paragraph [0021] of Applicant's as-filed specification. Further, the noise is subdued as the vertical displacement between the first air jet "a" from the nozzle 15 and the second air jet "c" from the second nozzle 16 is further accentuated due to the former being pushed down by the latter, avoiding direct collision of the first air jet "a" with the second air jet "c." See also paragraphs [0030] and [0031].

In *Tanaka*, a hand insertion unit 6 includes hand inserting part 7. In, for example, Fig. 1, nozzles 12 are arranged on right and left surfaces of the hand inserting part. The nozzle arranged on the right side is arranged at an interior side of the hollow portion with respect to the nozzle arranged on the left side.

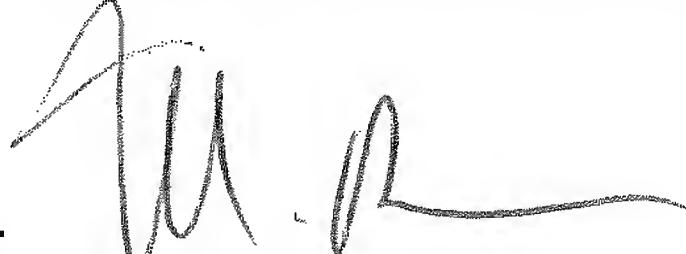
Consequently, the nozzle on the left side must correspond to Applicant's claimed second air opening. The nozzle on the left side emits an air jet that strikes

the surface roughly shown by element 13 in Fig. 1 of *Tanaka*. This surface is not inclined toward an interior of the hollow portion as in Applicant's independent claim 11. The nozzle on the left side and the nozzle on the right side have axes that are separated by distance "a." The air jets emitted by either nozzle will not collide with the other air jet. Thus, claim 11 is distinguishable over *Tanaka*.

The Examiner agreed that the rejections of claims 11-20 on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 11-21 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/585,920 in view of *Tanaka* would be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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the surface roughly shown by element 13 in Fig. 1 of *Tanaka*. This surface is not inclined toward an interior of the hollow portion as in Applicant's independent claim 11. The nozzle on the left side and the nozzle on the right side have axes that are separated by distance "a." The air jets emitted by either nozzle will not collide with the other air jet. Thus, claim 11 is distinguishable over *Tanaka*.

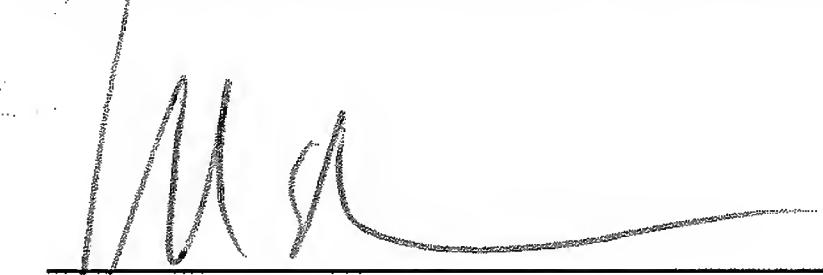
The Examiner agreed that the rejections of claims 11-20 on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 11-21 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/585,920 in view of *Tanaka* would be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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